

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 /029 W
-----086631 160946Z /10

O R 160900Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4759
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, W.)
SUBJECT: VISIT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY

REF: STATE 164515

FOLLOWING IS AN OPENING STATEMENT AND DRAFT QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, AS
REQUESTED REFTEL.

1. OPENING STATEMENT.

THE PURPOSE OF MY SHORT STOP IN INDIA--AN OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED
BY THE TRIP I AM UNDERTAKING FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES AROUND
THE WORLD--WAS TO MEET AND TALK WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERN-
MENT OF INDIA, PARTICULARLY THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
MR. VAJPAYEE, AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MR. PATEL. I AM
VERY SORRY THAT THE ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI PRE-
CLUDED MY CALLING ON HIM ALSO.

MY GOVERNMENT IS PERSUADED THAT THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF FRUIT-
FUL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BEYOND THOSE BI-
LATERAL ARRANGEMENTS--SUCH AS THE INDO-AMERICAN JOINT COMMIS-
SION AND ITS THREE SUBCOMMISSIONS--THAT ALREADY GIVE USEFUL
SUBSTANCE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP. OBVIOUSLY, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE

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IN SUCH A SHORT TIME TO TRANSACT MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS. MY
TALKS WITH MR. VAJPAYEE AND MR. PATEL WERE THEREFORE CONFINED
TO MY EXPRESSION OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO INDIA'S ROLE
ON THE WORLD SCENE AS WELL AS REGIONALLY AND TO A GENERAL SUR-
VEY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS SEEN FROM OUR RESPEC-
TIVE POINTS OF VIEW.

MY TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER COVERED SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. MR. VAJPAYEE BRIEFED ME ON THE MAJOR CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN INDIA SINCE LAST WINTER'S ELECTIONS AND THE POLICIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IN MY MEETING WITH THE FINANCE MINISTER WE DISCUSSED OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHICH IS NOW BEING PURSUED ALMOST NON STOP IN A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. I ALSO INFORMED HIM OF THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THAT FUNDS BE APPROPRIATED FOR A BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR INDIA. I SHOULD ADD THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION. I HAVE BEEN MOST CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE I HAVE HAD TO LEARN FIRSTHAND HOW INDIA ENVISAGES THE FURTHER COURSE OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. NOW I AM PREPARED TO TAKE ANY QUESTION YOU MAY HAVE.

2. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE BEEN MADE IN TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN? THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE OF THESE TALKS WAS THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE AREA. HAS THE OBJECTIVE BEEN DOWNGRADED, SO THAT NOW ONLY THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO, ARMS LIMITATION, IS SOUGHT? DID YOU DISCUSS THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

ANS. (DEPARTMENT TO SUPPLY RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING STATUS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS.) THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN CONTINUES TO BE ITS DEMILITARIZATION. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PASS THROUGH INTERMEDIATE STAGES SUCH AS LIMITING FURTHER MILITARY EXPANSION IN THE AREA. (DEPENDING UPON THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER:) THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I DID DISCUSS THIS TOPIC, WHICH IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OUR NATIONS.

3. WHY DOES THE US CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA, WHEN THE USSR DOES NOT HAVE SUCH A PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

ANS. AS I SAID, THE US IS COMMITTED TO THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. THIS OBJECTIVE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER INTERESTED NATIONS. IT IS NOT CORRECT TO SAY THAT THE USSR DOES NOT HAVE A MILITARY BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE SOVIETS HAVE DEVELOPED AN EXTENSIVE AIR AND NAVAL CAPABILITY AT BERBERA

IN SOMALIA.

4. WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE US TOWARDS THE NEW MILITARY
GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN? WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE US CON-2
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ISTAN?

ANS. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT FROM INDIA
ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. CONCERNING
THE SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN, PRESIDENT CARTER
HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNED A NEW POLICY LIMITING THE TRANSFER OF
CONVENTIONAL ARMS. WITHIN THIS POLICY OUR POSITION TOWARDS
THE SUBCONTINENT CONTINUES TO BE THAT WE WILL NOT BECOME A
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MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ARMS AND THAT WE WILL NOT STIMULATE AN ARMS
RACE IN THE REGION. WE DO NOT WANT TO INTERFERE WITH THE
PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THIS
DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL NOT SELL ARMS BUT IT DOES MEAN
THAT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM EITHER COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO BE
EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS
POLICY.

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ACTION PA-02

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5. WHEN WILL SECRETARY VANCE AND PRESIDENT CARTER VISIT INDIA?
HAS PRESIDENT CARTER INVITED PRIME MINISTER DESAI TO VISIT THE
UNITED STATES?

ANS. (DEPARTMENT TO SUPPLY.)

6. IS THE UNITED STATES GOING TO INSIST ON INSPECTION AND SAFEGUARDS ON ALL OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES, INCLUDING THOSE NOT ASSISTED BY THE UNITED STATES, AS A CONDITION FOR THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR, FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS A BILATERAL COMMITMENT? DID YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

ANS. AS YOU KNOW, WE RECENTLY AGREED TO A SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR. AS THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT THE OTHER DAY, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL SOON BEING DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING NON-PROLIFERATION. WE EXPECT THAT THE ISSUE WHICH YOU HAVE RAISED, AS WELL AS OTHERS, WILL COME UP AS WE CONSIDER HOW WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR COMMON SHARED OBJECTIVE OF HALTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. (CONTINGENT UPON WHAT TAKES PLACE AT THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER;) I DID NOT DEAL AT LENGTH WITH THIS SUBJECT IN MAY TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. OTHER PERSONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT WILL BE MEETING WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THESE MATTERS.
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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: WHEN AND WHERE WILL THESE TALKS TAKE PLACE AND WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THEM?

ANS. THIS IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION WITH THE GOI.

7. WILL THE UNITED STATES TERMINATE ITS SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL IF INDIA CONDUCTS ANOTHER PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TEST?

ANS. YES. OUR LAW REQUIRES THAT. AT THE SAME TIME, PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S RECENT STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT CONCERNING FUTURE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS COVERS THIS POINT ADEQUATELY FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

8. IS THE UNITED STATES SEEKING TO PREVENT INDIA FROM DEVELOPING BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY?

ANS. THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED AN INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATION OF ALL FUEL CYCLES SO THAT NATIONS CAN DEVELOP AND UTILIZE THOSE FUELS FOR POWER GENERATION WHICH DO NOT PRODUCE PLUTONIUM CAPABLE OF BEING UTILIZED IN WEAPON PRODUCTION.

9. WHY DOES THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO PREVENT INDIA FROM REPROCESSING SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL?

ANS. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS URGED ALL NATIONS TO AVOID

REPROCESSING, WHICH PRODUCES PLUTONIUM, WHICH CAN BE UTILIZED TO MAKE WEAPONS. IN INDIA OUR DIRECT INTEREST RELATES TO SPENT FUEL PRODUCED FROM ENRICHED URANIUM WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPLIED. ACCORDING TO OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ANY USE OF THIS SPENT FUEL IS THE SUBJECT OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: DOES THIS MEAN THE US WILL NOT AGREE TO THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL WHICH IT HAS SUPPLIED.

ANS. YES. OR AT LEAST UNTIL SOME BETTER SAFEGUARDS FOR PLUTONIUM ARE DISCOVERED.

10. DID YOU DISCUSS BILATERAL AID WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE?

ANS. AS PART OF A GENERAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL, THE US CONGRESS IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR INDIA. THIS WAS THE RESULT OF INITIATIVES BY BOTH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND HAS THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF BOTH HOUSES AS WELL AS PRESIDENT CARTER. I INFORMED THE FINANCE MINISTER OF THE STATUS OF THIS LEGISLATION AND INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS AT ANY APPROPRIATE TIME HOW SUCH FUNDS MIGHT BE USED FOR INDIAN DEVELOPMENT.

11. WHY IS THE U.S. TRYING TO REDUCE INDIA'S SHARE OF WORLD BANK (IDA V) LOANS?

ANS. THAT IS NOT MY GOVERNMENT'S INTENT. THE WORLD BANK AND ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PERIODICALLY REVIEW THE CRITERIA FOR WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS AS TO THESE CRITERIA AND AT THE SAME TIME ARE RECOMMENDING TO OUR CONGRESS A LARGE INCREASE IN OUR CONTRIBUTION UNDER IDA V.

12. WHY HAS THE UNITED STATES REFUSED TO CONDEMN THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN PAKISTAN? WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES DOING TO PREVENT PAKISTAN FROM BUILDING A REPROCESSING PLANT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FRENCH?

ANS. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT HERE ON THESE MATTERS CONCERNING A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY FROM INDIA.

13. WHY DID NOT SECRETARY VANCE MENTION INDIA IN HIS RECENT
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SPEECH ABOUT ASIA?

ANS. THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONCERNED EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. MOST RECENTLY (JUNE 22) ASSISTANT SECRETARY AHER-
TON, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF NEAR-EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS
IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS DEALING
WITH INDIA AND THE SUBCONTINENT. AS HE POINTED OUT, THERE
IS A RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN INDIA IN THE UNITED STATES AT
THE PRESENT TIME. I SHOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE COMMIT-
MENT TO DEMOCRACY BY THE INDIAN PEOPLE IS A DEVELOPMENT OF
MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. YOU SHOULD RECALL THAT
IN HIS MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME ON MAY 22,
PRESIDENT CARTER SINGLED OUT INDIA AS ONE OF "DEMOCRACY'S GREAT
RECENT SUCCESSES." THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO
INDICATED ITS ADMIRATION FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH INDIA AND
THE OTHER NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA HAVE REACHED AGREEMENTS
DIRECTLY BETWEEN THEMSELVES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.
WHILE WE HAVE NO DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS PROCESS OF ACCOMO-
DATION, WE ENCOURAGE IT AND ARE CAREFUL TO DO NOTHING TO
UPSET IT. IT IS AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD OF HOW
NATIONS CAN BY THEMSELVES WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS AND USE
THEIR RESOURCES FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE10087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770253-1201
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770750/aaaabrdn.tel
Line Count: 302
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION PA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 164515
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1841311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY
TAGS: OVIP, (CHRISTOPHER, W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cc06366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009